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proved action under section 214, Indian Penal Code, cannot be taken against those who screen the accused from discovery or who tamper with witnesses.

(*j*) The case has already been fully investigated and charged. The deputation of a special officer to enquire into it is unnecessary.

Economic condition.

Improvement of the economic condition of the backward classes in Madura and other districts.

*1142 *Q.*—Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(*a*) to call for and lay on the table village economic survey statements in typical backward areas prepared by the resettlement staff of Madura, Ramnad, Trichinopoly, Tanjore and South Arcot districts; and

(*b*) to state what special steps have been taken by the Transferred and Reserved half of Government to improve the taxable capacity and economic condition of all poor thirty-rupee pattadars?

A.—(*a*) The Government do not propose to call for and lay on the table the statements referred to by the hon. Member.

(*b*) The Government do not make any distinction between thirty-rupee pattadars and others in the matter of any assistance or advice given by them and so no special steps have been taken by them for thirty-rupee pattadars. The activities of the Agricultural and Co-operative departments have a direct bearing on the improvement of the economic condition of the ryots. The activities of the Industrial Engineering section are of direct benefit to the agriculturists. The survey of cottage industries has also been initiated with a view, among other things, to devise measures for the introduction of part-time occupations for the agriculturists in the off season.

Mr. R. Nagan Gowda: "May I know why the Government do not propose to call for those statements?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks: "Before 1917, there were no such statements prepared by the resettlement staff. After that year, in accordance with the recommendations of this House, statements were prepared recording the economic condition of a few families in a few villages, although Government in ordering that preparation as an experimental measure were not sure that they would get any results of value thereby. The statements do not refer to backward areas as the question does, and it was thought that the expenditure incurred in printing and publishing them would not be proportionate to their possible value. That is the reason why we do not propose to publish them."

Irrigation

Constitution of Irrigation panchayats in Bhimavaram taluk, West Godavari.

*1143 *Q.*—Mr. D. Narayana Raju: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Irrigation panchayats have been constituted in Bhimavaram taluk, West Godavari district; and